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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) An image interpolation method, comprising:

acquiring a first image and a second image;

computing a matching between the first image and the second image and detecting a point on the second image which corresponds to a point on the first image; and

interpolating the point on the first image and the point on the second image,

wherein, in said interpolating, a coordinate of the point on the first image and that of the point on the second image are effected in an interpolation computation and an original color of only one of the points is used in an interpolation result such that interpolation computation as to color is skipped.

2. (Original) An image interpolation method, comprising:

acquiring a first image, a second image and a matching result between the first image and the second image; and

generating an intermediate image of the first image and the second image by performing interpolation thereon based on the matching result,

wherein, in said generating, a coordinate of a point on the first image and that of a point on the second image are effected in an interpolation computation and an original

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color of only one of the points is used in an interpolation result such that interpolation computation as to color is skipped.

3. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus, comprising:

an image input unit which acquires a first image and a second image;

a matching processor which computes a matching between the first image and the second image so that a point on the second image corresponding to a point on the first image is detected, and

an intermediate image generator which generates an intermediate image by interpolating the point on the first image and that on the second image,

wherein, in said intermediate image generator, a coordinate of the point on the first image and that of the point on the second image are effected in an interpolation computation and an original color of only one of the points is used in an interpolation result such that interpolation computation as to color is skipped.

4. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said matching processor detects, by an image matching, points on the second image that correspond to lattice points of a mesh provided on the first image, and based on a thus detected result a destination polygon in the second image is defined corresponding to a source polygon of the mesh on the first image.

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5. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said matching processor performs a pixel-by-pixel matching computation based on correspondence between a critical point detected through a two-dimensional search on the first image and a critical point detected through a two-dimensional search on the second image.

6 (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said matching processor multiresolutionalizes the first image and the second image by respectively extracting the critical points, then performs the pixel-by-pixel matching computation between same multiresolution levels, and acquires a pixel-by-pixel correspondence relation at a finest level of resolution while inheriting a result of the pixel-by-pixel matching computation at a different multiresolution level.

7. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus, comprising:

a communication unit which acquires digital data which comprises a first image, a second image and a matching result between the first image and the second image; and

an intermediate image generator which generates an intermediate image of the first image and the second image by performing interpolation thereon based on the matching result,

wherein, in said intermediate image generator, a coordinate of the point on the first image and that of the point on the second image are effected in an interpolation

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computation and an original color of only one of the points is used in an interpolation result such that interpolation computation as to color is skipped.

8. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 3, further comprising a display unit which displays at least the intermediate image.

9. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising a display unit which displays at least the intermediate image.

10. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 3, further comprising a corresponding point file storage in which said matching is stored in a corresponding point file in a manner such that the corresponding point file is associated to the first image.

11. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising a corresponding point file storage in which said matching result is stored in a corresponding point file in a manner such that the corresponding point file is associated to the first image.

12. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said intermediate image generator does not refer to the second image and an original color of a point included in the first image is utilized as an interpolation result.

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13. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said intermediate image generator does not refer to the second image and an original color of a point included in the first image is utilized as an interpolation result.

14. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said intermediate image generator uses the original color of either points of the first image or points of the second image in a substantially averaged manner as an interpolation result.

15. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein said points are pixels and the original color of a pixel of the first image and a pixel of the second image are selected alternately.

16. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said intermediate image generator uses the original color of either points of the first image or points of the second image in a substantially averaged manner as an interpolation result.

17. (Original) An image interpolation apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein said points are pixels and the original color of a pixel of the first image and a pixel of the second image are selected alternately.

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18-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) A computer program executable by a computer, the program comprising the functions of:

acquiring a first image and a second image;

computing a matching between the thus acquired first and second images and detecting a point on the second image which corresponds to a point on the first image; and

interpolating the point on the first image and the point on the second image,

wherein, in said interpolating, a coordinate of the point on the first image and that of the point on the second image are effected in an interpolation computation and an original color of only one of the points is used in an interpolation result such that interpolation computation as to color is skipped.

22. (Original) A computer program executable by a computer, the program comprising the functions of:

acquiring digital data which comprises a first image, a second image and a matching result thereof; and

generating an intermediate image of the first image and the second image by performing interpolation thereon based on the matching result,

wherein, in said generating, a coordinate of a point on the first image and that of a point on the second image are effected in an interpolation computation and an

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original color of only one of the points is used in an interpolation result such that

interpolation computation as to color is skipped.

23-24. (Cancelled)